

Francesco Francia, c. 1447-1517
Bishop Altobello Averoldo

**KRESS CATALOGUE NUMBER**

K1531

IDENTIFIER

391

ARTIST

Francia, Francesco, c. 1447-1517

NATIONALITY

Italian

DATE

c. 1505

MEDIUM

oil on poplar panel

TYPE OF OBJECT

Painting

DIMENSIONS

painted surface: 52.8 x 40 cm (20 13/16 x 15 3/4 in)

LOCATION

National Gallery of Art, Washington, District of Columbia

PROVENANCE

Purchased 24 March 1837 by Generale Conte Teodoro Lechi [1778-1866], Brescia, from a certain Mr. Bonaldi; sold 31 May 1847 to Graf Samuel von Festetics [1806-1859], Vienna; [1] sold 1859 to Heinrich Adamberger, Vienna; [2] (his sale, Posonyi, Vienna, 24-28 April 1871, no. 1); Friedrich Jakob Gsell, Vienna; (his sale, G. Plach, Vienna, 14 March 1872, no. 152); Baron Nathaniel Mayer von Rothschild [1836-1905], Vienna; by inheritance to his nephew, Baron Alphons de Rothschild [1878-1942]; [3] his widow, Baroness Clarice de Rothschild [1894-1967]; (Frederick Mont, New York); sold 2 March 1948 to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, New York; [4] gift 1952 to NGA. [1] Fausto Lechi, *I quadri delle collezioni Lechi in Brescia: Storia e documenti*, Florence, 1968: 174, notes that an early Lechi collection inventory attributed the work to Raphael, an ascription later "corrected" in the archive files. In his diary of October 1857 Otto Mündler describes a portrait of Altobello Averoldo in the collection of the Abate Antonio Averoldi in Brescia: "A

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fine portrait of Altobello Alveroldo, splendidly coloured, which I take to be an undoubted Lorenzo Costa, in his francia-lilke stile. [sic] The face rather wooden, particularly the nose badly drawn, it would be otherwise a first-rate portrait. Golden tone." In the index for the transcribed diary the Gallery's painting is said to be the one described by Mündler, but the 1847 sale of the painting by Lechi to Von Festetits would seem to preclude this. See *The Travel Diaries of Otto Mündler 1855-1858*, ed. Carol Togneri Dowd, in *Walpole Society* 51 [1985]: 174, 272. [2] The von Festetits sale to Adamberger is referred to in Theodor von Frimmel, *Lexikon der Wiener Gemäldesammlungen*, 2 vols., Vienna, 1913-1914: 1:3. Frimmel notes the provenance through the acquisition by Baron de Rothschild. In his entry on the Festetits collection, Frimmel notes that Gsell bought almost a quarter of the pictures offered in the Festetits estate sale held in Vienna in March and April 1859, but the NGA painting is not included in the transcription of the sales catalogue provided by Frimmel. [3] Frimmel 1913-1914, 1:3. Fern Rusk Shapley (in *Catalogue of the Italian Paintings*, 2 vols., Washington, D.C., 1979: 1:192) gives the name of the Rothschild owner as Baron Nathaniel Mayer de Rothschild of Tring, Hertfordshire. This was corrected by Ellis Waterhouse in a review of Shapley's book: "The Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild...who owned the Francia portrait was not the one of Tring, but the one of Vienna" ("The National Gallery of Art, Washington and Dulwich Catalogues," *The Burlington Magazine* XCII [September 1980]: 638). This painting was among the Rothschild collections confiscated by the Nazis in Austria in 1938. It was discovered at the abbey in Kremsmünster and transferred to the salt mine at Alt Aussee. By August 1947 it was transferred to the control of the Bundesdenkmalamt, Vienna. (Alt Aussee receipt for objects of Austrian origin, dated 14 July 1947, item number 1169, National Archives RG 260/USACA/Records of the MFAA Branch/Monuments and Fine Arts Lists, Receipts and Reports of Objects for Restitution to Legal Ownership/Box 1/408-17 Monuments and Fine Arts - Inventory Lists of Art Depots, copy in NGA curatorial files.) It was restituted to the Rothschild family on 16 October 1947 (Index card for AR 873, restitution decision in ZI. 5739/47 dated 23 September 1947; export license in ZI 5905/47 dated 3 October 1947, all Bundesdenkmalamt, Vienna, copies in NGA curatorial files). [4] The bill of sale from Frederick Mont to the Kress Foundation is dated 2 March 1948, and marked paid three days later (copy in NGA curatorial files).

ACCESSION NUMBER

1952.5.64

KRESS NUMBER

1531

LEGACY NGA NUMBER

1143

NGA LOAN NUMBER

78

1 ACQUISITION

Frederick Mont, Inc., March 2, 1948

1 DISTRIBUTION

Gift to National Gallery of Art, October 15, 1952

EXTERNAL LINKS

Related Collection Record

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.41679.html>

Related National Gallery of Art Library Image Collections Record

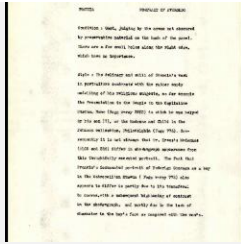
https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1p5jkvq/alma994963804896

Related National Gallery of Art Systematic Catalog

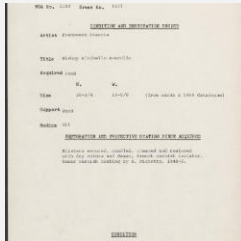
https://library.nga.gov/permalink/01NGA_INST/1cl1g8d/alma992014793504896

6 ARCHIVAL ITEMS

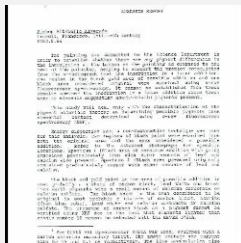
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K1531 - Alan Burroughs report, circa 1930s-1940s



K1531 - Condition and restoration record, circa 1950s-1960s



K1531 - Scientific analysis report, 1989



K1531 - Examination summary and treatment proposal, 1989



K1531 - Scientific analysis report, 1993

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K1531 - Treatment report, 1993

RECORD LINK

<https://kress.nga.gov/Detail/objects/391>